

The allowable nature of claims 12, 22, 23 and 26 is acknowledged. As a result, the recitations of claim 12 have been put into claim 1, and claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 14 and 16-18 are in condition for allowance. The recitations of claim 26 have been placed in claim 20, and therefore, claims 20 and 27 are in condition for allowance. Finally, claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form, and thus, claims 23 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Inasmuch as the remaining rejected claims have been canceled, entry of this amendment after final rejection is deemed appropriate in that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance of claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23 and 27 is thus respectfully requested.

Since the claims are less in number than those previously paid for, it is believed that no additional fee is required at this time. However, if such a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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